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WHEN CHILDREN WITH AUTISM TURN 22

April 10, 2012 by cpehrson

In recognition of April's Autism Awareness Month, the Autism Council of Utah and its partners are hosting a public viewing of the film *Autism: Coming of Age*, on Wednesday, April 25, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the Carmen B. Pingree School for Children with Autism, 780 South Guardsman, Salt Lake City.

As young adults reach age 22, most families want to celebrate. But for families with an autistic child, a 22nd birthday can be a time of great stress. That's because some needed services may no longer be available to their child as they "age out" of the system. The one hour film "*Autism: Coming of Age*" explores the hopes, fears and challenges of parents raising children with autism.

MassMutual is sponsoring this public television documentary film that provides an honest look at the future facing these families as their children become adults. In this documentary you'll see the day-to-day stories of three families and the impact of policies and court decisions. You'll also hear from parents, advocates and experts who deal with legal issues and love ones. Topics discussed in this film include:

- Independence
- Financial well-being
- Quality of life
- Employment
- Housing needs
- Education
- Health
- The child's longevity

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) are some of the most complex disabilities that families can face. This documentary is, in part, a follow-up to groundbreaking research from the December 2008 "Easter Seals Living with Autism" study, also co-sponsored by MassMutual, that examined the hopes, fears and challenges of parents raising children with autism.

To find out other viewing places and times, go to the Utah Education Network web site.